

From: Rich12332@cs.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, Apr 26, 2003 9:36 PM
Subject: Turner Calls Media Mogul Murdoch 'Warmonger' 5 companies control 90%

Turner Calls Rival Media Mogul Murdoch 'Warmonger'

By Duncan Martell

Reuters

Friday 25 April 2003

SAN FRANCISCO - Ted Turner said on Thursday too few people owned too many media organizations and called rival media baron Rupert Murdoch a warmonger for what he said was Murdoch's promotion of the U.S. war in Iraq.

"He's a warmonger," Turner said in an evening speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco of Murdoch, whose News Corp. Ltd. owns the fast-growing Fox News Channel. "He promoted it."

Fox News Channel has been the most popular U.S. cable news network during the conflict, trumping AOL Time Warner Inc.'s CNN, which Turner started more than two decades ago and came to prominence with its blanket coverage of the 1991 Gulf War.

Asked by an audience member for his thoughts on Fox's larger ratings share than CNN's, Turner said, "Just because your ratings are bigger doesn't mean you're better."

"It's not how big you are, it's how good you are that really counts," Turner said, drawing hoots from the audience.

Turner, who has pledged to give \$1 billion to the United Nations and is a vocal proponent of population control and nuclear-arms elimination, criticized the concentration of ownership of the vast majority of U.S. television networks, radio and TV stations and newspapers in a few corporations.

"The media is too concentrated, too few people own too much," Turner said.

Asked whether he would again try to launch a new network, Turner, who is the vice chairman of AOL Time Warner and has been critical of the merger of AOL and TimeWarner, said: "No. I think the space is filled with the people already there."

FIVE COMPANIES

"There's really five companies that control 90 percent of what we read, see and hear. It's not healthy."

Earlier on Thursday, BBC Director General Greg Dyke said U.S. broadcasters' coverage of the Iraq war was so unquestioningly patriotic and so lacking in impartiality that it threatened the credibility of America's electronic media.

Dyke singled out for criticism Fox News Channel and Clear Channel Communications Inc., the largest operator of radio stations in the United States.

"Personally, I was shocked while in the United States by how unquestioning the broadcast news media was during this war," Dyke said in a speech at a University of London conference.

After Turner's initial remarks, the moderator for the question and answer session noted that Turner would not be able to comment on the ongoing federal investigations into AOL Time Warner.

The moderator had scarcely finished her statement when he leaned into the microphone and said: "I can say one thing. As the largest shareholder and the biggest shareholder (of the company), it's been brutal." Turner said he also liked bison.

"I got 35,000 of them," Turner said in response to a question about bison. "I do eat them. You've got to eat."

The final question of the evening to Turner: What will be his epitaph.

"I have nothing more to say," Turner said. "And that's what it is."

(In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes.)

From: Frank Passaro
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, Apr 26, 2003 9:49 PM
Subject: Media Concentration: reply to public comments

I am writing to you today to reply to the public comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. To promote competition, diversity and local content, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules and impose stricter public interest requirements.

The studies commissioned by the FCC are flawed and incomplete. By allowing our media outlets to merge print and broadcast facilities a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information available to citizens to act in the public interest will result.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

Thank you,

Frank Passaro, Jr.

From: Frank Passaro
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, Apr 26, 2003 9:49 PM
Subject: Media Concentration: reply to public comments

I am writing to you today to reply to the public comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. To promote competition, diversity and local content, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules and impose stricter public interest requirements.

The studies commissioned by the FCC are flawed and incomplete. By allowing our media outlets to merge print and broadcast facilities a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information available to citizens to act in the public interest will result.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

Thank you,

Frank Passaro, Jr.

From: john ciraldo
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:20 AM
Subject: deregulation

I would like to take the opportunity to voice my opinion over the continued deregulation of the airwaves. It is my understanding that the airwaves are the property of the public rather than corporations. However, when you allow massive corporations to take over our local air, and with it our local voice, you condemn rather than serve the public. To take away any form of diversity or the opportunity for an independent set of thoughts both sickens and terrifies me. I feel that it goes without explanation that allowing corporations such as Clear Channel to override our local airwaves can only stifle smaller companies who cannot compete, thereby taking the airwaves away from the public, away from Americans, and giving them to detached often very distant interests who have no intention to offer the public any benefit or service. Please use the power that you have been given to actually serve the interest of all Americans and allowing us to continue to own what is ours, the airwaves. Thank-you for your time.

-John Ciraldo
1237 Weathervane Ln. Apt. 1A
Akron, Ohio
44313

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

From: john ciraldo
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:20 AM
Subject: deregulation

I would like to take the opportunity to voice my opinion over the continued deregulation of the airwaves. It is my understanding that the airwaves are the property of the public rather than corporations. However, when you allow massive corporations to take over our local air, and with it our local voice, you condemn rather than serve the public. To take away any form of diversity or the opportunity for an independent set of thoughts both sickens and terrifies me. I feel that it goes without explanation that allowing corporations such as Clear Channel to override our local airwaves can only stifle smaller companies who cannot compete, thereby taking the airwaves away from the public, away from Americans, and giving them to detached often very distant interests who have no intention to offer the public any benefit or service. Please use the power that you have been given to actually serve the interest of all Americans and allowing us to continue to own what is ours, the airwaves. Thank-you for your time.

-John Ciraldo
1237 Weathervane Ln. Apt. 1A
Akron, Ohio
44313

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

From: john ciraldo
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:20 AM
Subject: deregulation

I would like to take the opportunity to voice my opinion over the continued deregulation of the airwaves. It is my understanding that the airwaves are the property of the public rather than corporations. However, when you allow massive corporations to take over our local air, and with it our local voice, you condemn rather than serve the public. To take away any form of diversity or the opportunity for an independent set of thoughts both sickens and terrifies me. I feel that it goes without explanation that allowing corporations such as Clear Channel to override our local airwaves can only stifle smaller companies who cannot compete, thereby taking the airwaves away from the public, away from Americans, and giving them to detached often very distant interests who have no intention to offer the public any benefit or service. Please use the power that you have been given to actually serve the interest of all Americans and allowing us to continue to own what is ours, the airwaves. Thank-you for your time.

-John Ciraldo
1237 Weathervane Ln. Apt. 1A
Akron, Ohio
44313

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

CC: jdc@nacs.net, Dave Colgrove, dekkard@replicants.org

From: john ciraldo
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:20 AM
Subject: deregulation

I would like to take the opportunity to voice my opinion over the continued deregulation of the airwaves. It is my understanding that the airwaves are the property of the public rather than corporations. However, when you allow massive corporations to take over our local air, and with it our local voice, you condemn rather than serve the public. To take away any form of diversity or the opportunity for an independent set of thoughts both sickens and terrifies me. I feel that it goes without explanation that allowing corporations such as Clear Channel to override our local airwaves can only stifle smaller companies who cannot compete, thereby taking the airwaves away from the public, away from Americans, and giving them to detached often very distant interests who have no intention to offer the public any benefit or service. Please use the power that you have been given to actually serve the interest of all Americans and allowing us to continue to own what is ours, the airwaves. Thank-you for your time.

-John Ciraldo
1237 Weathervane Ln. Apt. 1A
Akron, Ohio
44313

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

CC: jdc@nacs.net, Dave Colgrove, dekkard@replicants.org

From: teppup2@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:35 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Juanita Miller
1313 N. Terripin
Mesa, Arizona 85207

cc:
Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl
Representative Jeff Flake

From: Helene Knox
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:37 AM
Subject: Stop total privatization of the media

Dear FCC Commisioners:

I am writing to urge you to defend the remaining rules that prevent a handful of private corporations from taking overwhelming control of all US media, to make a stranglehold even worse than what they have already.

Europeans are shocked that US news reports are so much like each other, so different from serious investigative reporting, and so close to US government press releases that they drumbeat the American population into fearful ignorance of what is really going on in the world. We are living in a dangerous bubble of dysfunctional disinformation.

Defend freedom of the press, by encouraging many different voices and points of view. That means many different OWNERS, not just hundreds of channels. Freedom of the press belongs to the people who OWN the press/network/station.

To have only three, four or five megacorporations own all information sources in thousands of American towns and cities would be the triumph of the privatization that is globalizing the United States of America into a third world country.

Please resist the demands for this outrageous takeover of freedom of the "press." Is this still the land of the free -- or what?

Helene Knox, Ph.D.
Oakland, CA

From: ckgardener@ucdavis.edu
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:37 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Cassie Gardener
206 Nova 560 Beckett Hall Circle
Davis, California 95616

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

From: Helene Knox
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:37 AM
Subject: Stop total privatization of the media

Dear FCC Commisioners:

I am writing to urge you to defend the remaining rules that prevent a handful of private corporations from taking overwhelming control of all US media, to make a stranglehold even worse than what they have already.

Europeans are shocked that US news reports are so much like each other, so different from serious investigative reporting, and so close to US government press releases that they drumbeat the American population into fearful ignorance of what is really going on in the world. We are living in a dangerous bubble of dysfunctional disinformation.

Defend freedom of the press, by encouraging many different voices and points of view. That means many different OWNERS, not just hundreds of channels. Freedom of the press belongs to the people who OWN the press/network/station.

To have only three, four or five megacorporations own all information sources in thousands of American towns and cities would be the triumph of the privatization that is globalizing the United States of America into a third world country.

Please resist the demands for this outrageous takeover of freedom of the "press." Is this still the land of the free -- or what?

Helene Knox, Ph.D.
Oakland, CA

From: nmilano@mcn.org
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:37 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected Sincerely, Nancy Milano POB 928 Fort Bragg, CA95437

Sincerely,

Nancy Milano
POB 928
Fort Bragg, California 95437

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mike Thompson

From: msimonton@albertson.edu
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:39 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Margaret Simonton
2112 Cleveland Blvd.
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

cc:
Senator Larry Craig
Senator Michael Crapo
Representative C. L. Otter

From: claire
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 6:58 AM
Subject: June 2nd vote

I urge you not to loosen any further regulations that would allow more and more of our media to be controlled by one or two corporations. Today it is almost impossible to find a station that provides both sides of an issue. There is so much propaganda on the news that it reminds me of my high school days during McCarthyism. Isn't the FCC a federal commission that is provided by the taxpayers to protect us? It's time to make some rules that prohibit large corporations from acquiring too many media outlets. Thank you. C. Walker

From: deborahy@mindspring.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 8:56 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hirsch
165 Woodhaven Way
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004-2147

cc:
Senator Saxby Chambliss
Representative Johnny Isakson
Senator Zell Miller

From: tdal@erols.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 9:46 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Terry Dalsemer
214 Homewood Terrace
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

cc:
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Representative Elijah Cummings

From: Prichard

To: aadeluna@moonbroadcasting.com, aamd2000@yahoo.com, acpowell@usc.edu, adesmarais@hillfilms.com, ahammond@scu.edu, ahernandez@maldef.org, Alexis Johns, amcgee@freeshell.org, Ann Monahan, ander@joycefdn.org, andrea@benton.org, andreicherny@yahoo.com, andys@mediaaccess.org, andys@mediaaccess.org, anne.lucey@viacom.com, anogales@msn.com, aronson@usc.edu, arose@morgancreek.com, arw9@law.georgetown.edu, aws@iccas.com, barbbobmil@aol.com, bboliek@hollywoodreporter.com, Beisenstock@aol.com, bendersimon@prodigy.net, benelson@usc.edu, bent@fisherbroadcasting.com, bill.lebeau@corporate.ge.com, billbleich@earthlink.net, billett@usc.edu, blooel@consumer.org, bmowen@stanford.edu, bob.okun@corporate.ge.com, borum@usc.edu, bremagazin@aol.com, Brookieiam@aol.com, bruce.gersh@abc.com, BruceOwen@stanford.edu, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, Cathy_Sandoval@hotmail.com, cavell@usc.edu, cbaker48@earthlink.net, cbenton@homevision.com, Catherine Bohigian, cbslocum@wga.org, cchrysta@usc.edu, Carolyn Conyers, Cederling@aol.com, chadcorwin@hotmail.com, chaser@ucc.org, cherniak@usc.edu, Chris.Leanza@unistudios.com, christy@adelphia.net, Chuckfries@aol.com, ckennard@msn.com, clast13@attbi.com, cleanza@mediaaccess.org, convergentmedia@msn.com, CPaul@scpr.org, cray@usc.edu, crhoden@wga.org, CrzyNat@aol.com, cswartz@etcenter.org, cwomack@kjlhradio.com, dan@namac.org, DANHF@juno.com, daniel@scapegoat.net, danielsdd@aol.com, dave13@attbi.com, daviddiz@aol.com, db@thevine.net, dbravo@aftra.com, demoraji@usc.edu, denise@gtrb.com, dhonig@crosslink.net, dhunt@soc.ucla.edu, dilarasezgin@yahoo.com, dillardjoyce@yahoo.com, dirk@cwm.com, dkaufman@crystalstairs.org, dklingma@fcc.gov, dkmuir@hotmail.com, dlichtma@midway.uchicago.edu, dmayer@usc.edu, dmcnary@reedbusiness.com, dmihram@usc.edu, drawls3@comcast.net, dsutter01@aol.com, dv@bastioncapital.com, eagress@newscorp.com, ebaker48@earthlink.net, echemeri@law.usc.edu, eddie@naatanet.org, eeb@usc.edu, eingle@parentstv.org, elizabeth.nicolson@mail.house.gov, elizabethserrano@netzero.net, elliot.becker@ewu.ericsson.se, enicholls@homevision.com, eowen@oslaw.com, espiegelman@ffentlaw.com, espinosa@electriciti.com, fabernat@fcc.gov, ffgutier@usc.edu, fogu@usc.edu, fulk@usc.edu, FWells@cslanet.calstatela.edu, gene.Pao@disney.com, geowhite@ucla.edu, ggentile@ap.org, ginamo@attbi.com, globaljustice@attbi.com, gnheys@yahoo.com, golarson@pacbell.net, gstocker@pacbell.net, gtheller@cbs.com, guyaoki@yahoo.com, harveyschick@hotmail.com, hburns@hollywoodreporter.com, heidsiec@usc.edu, hernang@usc.edu, hfeld@mediaaccess.org, hollihan@usc.edu, homeheal@pacbell.net, lazoff@aol.com, info@eurweb.com, inform@rio.com, ingall@usc.edu, irazimmy@aol.com, Commissioner Adelstein, jamesjspencer@yahoo.com, janice.jose@abc.com, jaymackie@seattletimes.com, jayth@duke.edu, jayth@pps.duke.edu, jburt@wga.org, jchester@pop.mail.rcn.net, jchester@pop.rcn.com, jjoyce@nabet16.org, jcontrubis@wgaeast.org, jeff@democraticmedia.org, jeff@emmis.com, jeff@media-alliance.org, jeffp@bsbooks.com, jfeeley@postoffice.pacbell.net, jgirling@studiosystemsinc.com, Jordan Goldstein, jgonale@aftra.com, jgoodman@nab.org, jholtz@usc.edu, jim@povmedia.com, jimwiadd@msn.com, jilizarraaga@aol.com, jkagan@usc.edu, jmackie@seattletimes.com, jmandel@mediacommail.com, jmclean91104@earthlink.net, jmwatson@usc.edu, jodyk@dga.org, joe.russin@latimes.com, john.drews@sen.ca.gov, johnsonjai2@aol.com, Jonesjo777@aol.com, jonr@creativecommunity.us, jorszag@sbgo.com, jrintels@earthlink.net, jsanchez@wgaeast.org, jsilver@mediareform.net, jt@pipeline.com, jtaplin@intertainer.com, jtharris@usc.edu, jtorres@nahj.org, jtully@entravision.com, judyhsu@usc.edu, julie.xanders@latimes.com, juliomoran@ccnma.org, jwallace@aftra.com, jwlnjpl@aol.com, jyan@usc.edu, Kathleen Abernathy, kaycloud@mindspring.com, keith_weaver@spe.sony.com, kenz@zbbfgrs.com, keslade@kjlhradio.com, kevin.ramon@sbcglobal.net, kgarmezy@dga.org, ki.sung@kcrw.org, kibosh@attbi.com, kimmge@consumer.org, KM KJMWEB, kkirsch@nab.org, Katherine Lapin, Kevin Martin, koimo@yahoo.com, kristina.kirk@edelman.com, kunkel@comm.ucsb.edu, kwarden@newscorp.com, latonero@usc.edu, lazetaman@aol.com, lcastane@usc.edu, lcohen@law.usc.edu, lfoley@cwa-unio.org, lfoley@cwa-union.org, lhill@hillfilms.com, linda.lawson10@verizon.net, linda.wolin@mail.house.gov, lmahaney@parentstv.org, Lauren Northrop, lo@emmys.org, lorachen@attbi.com, lpryor@usc.edu, lsimon@aftra.com, lsydell@npr.org, lwolf@usc.edu, maehmail@adelphia.net, mannm@usc.edu, map01@his.com, marc@smsr.com, margcone@aol.com, marielongdc@hotmail.com, mark.a.pedowitz@abc.com, markcooper@aol.com, marks@warnerbros.com, marnie.i.tattersall@abc.com, marthaw@lmi.net, martyk@usc.edu,

materoc1@aol.com, Michael Copps, mdfanks@cbs.com, mdfranks@cbs.com, mduron@usc.edu, melissa.a.wall@csun.edu, melissa.mcdonald@mail.house.gov, melvinfe@usc.edu, members@aivf.org, michael.hiltzik@latimes.com, michel.schneider@edelman.com, michelle.c@adelphia.net, milios@usc.edu, Millskay@aol.com, 2-Earthlink, mitgo2@worldnet.att.net, mliskin@usc.edu, mmangan@wgaeast.org, MOConnell@newscorp.com, mocte@ix.netcom.com, mosull@voanews.com, mparks@usc.edu, Mike Powell, mrgpc@aol.com, mrtturner@usc.edu, mshaffer@vcnet.com, msnow@aftra.com, murrch@consumer.org, mvohare@mindspring.com, ngomez@lafavorita.net, ngrob2@msn.com, nkoch@attbi.com, norris@benton.org, NorthGary@aol.com, nsnow@fullerton.edu, oetzel@usc.edu, orenrosenthal@yahoo.com, paula.madison@nbc.com, paula@1035thebomb.com, Paulect69@aol.com, penley@filmstudies.ucsb.edu, pfair@sag.org, pfannhau@usc.edu, pia_marar@itvs.org, Paul Margie, pmiller@childrennow.org, pokeryoda@earthlink.net, poplowsk@usc.edu, president@aftra.com, prettyboyinhollywood@yahoo.com, priegerl@aol.com, PXYDST007@aol.com, RAARONS@aol.com, radiolazer@hotmail.com, rdowling@hollywoodreporter.com, readdean@thirteen.org, research@pmgadvisory.com, RGilberg@msek.com, rhorwitz@weber.ucsd.edu, ricshaffra@law.usc.edu, rmbrand@robertbrandon.com, rshaffra@law.usc.edu, rulewind@earthlink.net, ruschioni@parentstv.org, rwilkes@hollywoodreporter.com, saberman@newshour.org, sallie.hoffmeister@latimes.com, sallyhampton@attbi.com, sammon@usc.edu, sampak.garg@mail.house.gov, sarah@sanford-pillsbury.com, sbanet@usc.edu, sbyers@usc.edu, scohen@diversetalentgroup.com, SCohen54@aol.com, Susan Eid, sepetys@aol.com, skolhatkar@pkfk.org, smontiel@usc.edu, Stacy Robinson, ss@graphics.org, ssheehan@tribune.com, stanfordk@pacbell.net, steve_mosko@spe.sony.com, steven@freenetproject.org, stharvey@shell.com, stu@peoplescourt.com, sumiharu@earthlink.net, susan.l.fox@abc.com, susanr@sda-inc.com, Sarah Whitesell, taleney@hotmail.com, teague@usc.edu, terronesent@prodigy.net, tlevi@usc.edu, tonifields@email.com, tournour@afm.org, TVjournLA@aol.com, twesten@cgs.org, vai2264@aol.com, vance@producersguild.org, vantageave@aol.com, victorw2@aol.com, vinchar@hotmail.com, voiceovers@earthlink.net, vporter@usc.edu, vriskin@aol.com, vvanpetten@producersguild.org, wampler@usc.edu, wayne@crain.com, wendy@entelechy.net, wgsroll@igc.org, white1@earthlink.net, whrldeas@earthlink.net, wmfive@aol.com, wray@wraycodesign.com, wshitese@fcc.gov, wbk01

Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 10:35 AM

Subject: Media Consolidation consequences

Re: Media Consolidation consequences

According to USA Today, the FCC is probably going to greenlight further media consolidation when it votes on June 2.

At noon today on Channel 28, you can watch a repeat of Barry Diller discussing some of the dire consequences of further deregulation of what he calls our media "oligopoly." Mr. Diller's pretty draconian in his predictions, but he doesn't get as specific as Eric Boehlert's piece in Salon, "Habla usted Clear Channel?" about the stupendous political power play behind the proposed merger of the two biggest Spanish-language media companies in the U.S.

I think the stakes are greater than anybody's publicly discussing. The forces behind the drive to further deregulate monopolistic media ownership are already secretly destroying the free press upon which our democracy depends.

The good news, however, is that we are not powerless to stop this corruption. If we really decide to fight back to protect our free press, there's a powerfully dramatic way to convince the public that something's gone drastically haywire with the media and that corrective measures are necessary. We need to find ways to effectively inform the public about some of the major stories that the press has withheld from the electorate. The American press has gotten itself into a worse cover-up trap than the Catholic Church because of important information that it has withheld in order to get what it wants..

Do you know that during the 2000 campaign the media kept secret from the electorate the fact that George W. Bush was a defendant in a whistleblower lawsuit by the executive director of the Texas Funeral Service Commission that accused him of obstruction of justice, lying under oath, and

influence-peddling? It steadily advanced through the discovery process -- including the taking of depositions that contradicted Bush's sworn affidavit -- throughout the campaign and through the first months of Bush's presidency. In stunning contrast to the hyping of the Paula Jones case, the national press kept everything about the legal developments in the suit against Bush secret. Known as Funeralgate before it was 'disappeared' when Bush became the GOP presidential candidate, the lawsuit was secretly settled by the office of Bush's co-defendant, then Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, before he announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. The defendants insisted on a highly unusual provision that all records from the case never be released to the public. Fortunately, however, many of the legal records are still available.)

Before the 2002 election, after failing to persuade journalists in Texas and the national media to inform the electorate about the case and its secret settlement by candidate Cornyn's office, I wrote a long piece about the details of the lawsuit, the media cover-up, and its implications. Even though some of the links in the article have expired, I urge you to read it. I wrote it both to get the information on the record and to speculate that the major reason that the press withheld a story that would have undermined Bush's promise to 'restore honor and integrity to the presidency' was their understanding that his FCC appointees would further deregulate monopolistic media ownership.

This is not about conspiracy theories. It's probably much more basic than that. As a complete media outsider, I can only guess the reasons for what's been going on. But for whatever purposes, information the public was entitled to have has been withheld.

The last part of my piece gives more examples of how the media is withholding crucial info. I discuss the Sept. 2000 Project for a New American Century report that revealed the Bush team's intention to control the planet, space and cyberspace (a.k.a. the internet), which followed its 1997 letter advocating deposing Saddam Hussein militarily. I tell of a passionate speech by Al Gore warning of the threat to democracy of media consolidation, which was only reported in a student newspaper. And an ignored story on the Bush-connected Carlyle Group investing in an outfit aiming to cash in on FCC deregulation. I explain the false spinning of the media consortium recount of Florida ballots, which buried the fact that when all the legally cast ballots were counted - excluding the thousands of people (mostly Democrats) who accidentally voted for Pat Buchanan on the butterfly ballot or otherwise misvoted or spoiled their ballots - the winner of the Florida election NORC recount was Al Gore.

I sketch some crucial unreported details of the story of how a group of Bush supporters schemed to officially disgrace Bill Clinton. Please read my article's summary of how Richard Porter, the successor to the younger Bush's close friend Lee Atwater as head of Bush I's opposition research team, secretly manipulated the Paula Jones case to its culmination in a disbarment referral. Since Oct. of 2000 I've tried to get the press to inform the public about the relationship between a close friend of the Bushes and the Cheneys, former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Bill Clinton's adversary ever since he narrowly defeated Clinton in his re-election bid in 1974, and Ken Reeves. It was Reeves who took control of the Arkansas legal ethics panel from its executive director, and pushed through a recommendation to disbar the president after a referral to the panel by Susan Webber Wright, the Jones case judge. Hammerschmidt sponsored Wright's appointment to the federal bench by Bush Sr.

The real story of the machinations leading to the impeachment and disbarment effort hasn't been told, but a key play was made by Reeves. Afterward, Reeves was interviewed for a May 24, 2000 story by Don Van Natta, Jr. in the New York Times, in which he "described himself as non-partisan" and claimed to have approached the deliberations on Clinton just as he would have any other lawyer -- giving the impression that he'd had no conflicts of interest. In fact, he was a director of trucking giant American Freightways with Hammerschmidt - the two serving together on the three-man audit and compensation committees.

Provided the information, the New York Times refused to report Reeves' association with Hammerschmidt, letting stand the misleading impression that Reeves was just an ordinary Arkansas lawyer serving on the panel. Nobody else would report it either.

Why they won't report it and why the Funeralgate lawsuit was 'disappeared' once Bush became the GOP presidential candidate appears to be at the core of what's gone haywire with our press corps -- and a warning of how much more untrustworthy the media could become.

Had these stories been straight-forwardly reported by the national media, the obvious questions could have been asked. The public could then have gaged their significance. Perhaps Bush would have been able to persuade the electorate that the Funeralgate lawsuit was politically motivated and that the contradictions of his affidavit were caused by simple misunderstandings. Perhaps Mr. Reeves could have persuaded people that it really was just a coincidence that he ended up directing the Arkansas legal ethics panel.

Here's a brief review of my attempts to get these stories reported, which I think may illustrate some of the factors involved in their cover-ups. I first sent the information by express mail to Jim Lehrer, urging him to ask about it during the debates, and to the publishers and managing editors of the New York Times and the Washington Post. I heard nothing from Lehrer or the Times, but I got a handwritten note from the Post's publisher, Donald E. Graham, thanking me for the material and telling me which of his top reporters he was giving it to. I heard no more from Mr. Graham and the reporter never responded to my e-mails.

After I then sent the material to several other national outlets with no response, I sent a story entitled "Bush Charged With Lying Under Oath About Influence-Peddling," including links, to every publisher and editor on the AJR Newslink (many dozens), and to every other publication I thought should report it. I offered it for free, imploring them to use the information to write their own story.

During the week before the 2000 election, the editor of a major progressive publication e-mailed that he might use my story and asked me about my background. When I explained that I'm not a professional writer, he said that he was going to send my piece to an investigative journalist I considered first-rate. To my amazement, he soon e-mailed back that the journalist had declined the assignment. I then urged him to write it himself, as he's a noted writer. He said no. I implored him to tell me why. He said that on reflection he had to agree that a story of this consequence could only be broken by the New York Times -- that to ignore their prerogative could get a journalist blackballed for life.

That sounded goofy to me. But since then another highly experienced editor has told me the same thing -- agreeing that breaking a major story the Times won't report might get one blackballed. I've since confirmed that, as I always expected, others were also trying to get the Funeralgate story explained to the public before the election -- including Robert Bryce, the superb reporter for the Austin Chronicle, who'd done the most extensive reporting on the lawsuit. He told me that he took the story to the Times, but that they blew him off.

Then during the recount I revved up again, e-mailing everybody all over again. After hearing from me several times, one editor e-mailed me to calm down because they were holding a comprehensive piece by Bryce, assuring me that "it's moment will come." It didn't.

In the beginning of December, after I found out that Ken Starr's replacement, Robert Ray, was threatening to bring Monica Lewinsky back before a new, all-white grand jury, I sent a story entitled "Lying Under Oath: Concurrent Trials of Clinton and Bush?" to several editors. The managing editor of one of the nation's top newspapers, whom I had been pestering for weeks without any response, almost immediately e-mailed back that he was showing my piece to his national editor. He said he probably wouldn't use it, but maybe. The national editor e-mailed that he might have the story written by the excellent staff writer who'd been covering the Funeralgate story before Bush became the GOP nominee. He accepted my offer to send all my material to the writer. Two days later the paper broke the story of Robert Ray's squeeze play on Monica Lewinsky (leaving out that the new grand jury was all white). And saying nothing about the lawsuit against Bush.

I sent that same editor my long piece written before the mid-term election. If you read the thing to the end, you see why I wasn't as frustrated as usual by what he e-mailed back: "Thanks very much. We'll be covering the FCC deliberations." He hasn't reported any of this withheld info yet, but I'm not giving up on

him.

As I speculate in my piece, my best guess as to what's going on here is greed on the part of the media owners and fear on the part of journalists. Most people that I've told this tale have resisted believing that if the stories of the Funeralgate lawsuit and the secret machinations behind the disbarment attempt were really legitimate, somebody wouldn't report them in order to make a name for himself. All I can do is point out that nobody has. The lawsuit was real. It was steadily progressing through the discovery process while defendant Bush was the president of the United States. Unlike the Jones case, it wasn't thrown out on summary judgment.

People are naturally wary of anything that smacks of conspiracy theories. But this dynamic requires no conspiracy. The bottom line is simply that if media ownership is further concentrated in the hands of only a few, virtually no journalists who want careers in the mainstream press will dare report any information that could possibly threaten the interests of the owners controlling the major media outlets. As my article illustrates, this is already the case to a frightening degree.

The indisputable facts are that in contrast to the exhaustive reportage of every allegation against Clinton, the press suppressed the news of the legal developments in a whistleblower lawsuit brought against Governor Bush by an executive director of a state agency. Perhaps even more damagingly, covering-up the real story behind the impeachment and disbarment drives has resulted in the press not explaining to the public that Bush has rewarded many of the get-Clinton players with extremely important positions, e.g. Ted Olson, John Bates, Michael Chertoff, Viet Dinh, and a lot of others.

There are many other significant stories that have been lost. Another dropped story that shockingly illustrates the deceitful double standard that the press has been employing for reasons of its own is that Bush brazenly lied in the Oval Office when asked about a damaging relationship, exactly like Clinton did. Except that in contrast to the thousands of times that news divisions replayed Clinton's denial of having had sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky (Chris Matthews bragged to Jeffrey Toobin in 2001 that he'd shown the clip of Clinton's worst moment at least 500 times on his show -- and he's still replaying it on every possible occasion), the clip of Bush baldfacedly lying that he'd gotten to know of Ken Lay because Lay supported his opponent, Ann Richardson, vanished almost immediately.

The policy consequences of the media's double standard for scandal coverage can't be overstated. It amounts to sponsorship of the Bush agenda, although the media owners may only care about their own interests. Beyond that it's a complete failure to responsibly report news that really matters. The nation needs to have these secrets exposed in order to stop the cover-up trap that leads to more and more cover-ups, lies, and distortions.

Nevertheless, those of you who oppose further deregulation of media concentration may recoil from all this political stuff. But we opponents of more deregulation are poised to lose big on June 2. The nation is poised to lose big.

Since receiving my Ph.D in communication from USC, I've been recording and producing audio books, a great number of them histories. This has given me a passion for our democracy and freedoms. We musn't lose this opportunity to stop the corruption of our free press. The forces behind the drive for more media "oligopoly," as described by Barry Diller, have played their hand ruthlessly.

Here in L.A. there are the resources to fight back and get these truths out. Please do all you can to stop this theft.

Roses Prichard

From: Prichard

To: aadeluna@moonbroadcasting.com, aamd2000@yahoo.com, acpowell@usc.edu, adesmarais@hillfilms.com, ahammond@scu.edu, ahernandez@maldef.org, Alexis Johns, amcgee@freeshell.org, Ann Monahan, ander@joycefdn.org, andrea@benton.org, andreicherny@yahoo.com, andys@mediaaccess.org, andys@mediaaccess.org, anne.lucey@viacom.com, anogales@msn.com, aronson@usc.edu, arose@morgancreek.com, arw9@law.georgetown.edu, aws@iccas.com, barbbobmil@aol.com, bboliek@hollywoodreporter.com, Beisenstock@aol.com, bendersimon@prodigy.net, benelson@usc.edu, bent@fisherbroadcasting.com, bill.lebeau@corporate.ge.com, billbleich@earthlink.net, billett@usc.edu, blooel@consumer.org, bmowen@stanford.edu, bob.okun@corporate.ge.com, borum@usc.edu, bremagazin@aol.com, Brookieiam@aol.com, bruce.gersh@abc.com, BruceOwen@stanford.edu, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, Cathy_Sandoval@hotmail.com, cavell@usc.edu, cbaker48@earthlink.net, cbenton@homevision.com, Catherine Bohigian, cbslocum@wga.org, cchrysta@usc.edu, Carolyn Conyers, Cederling@aol.com, chadcorwin@hotmail.com, chaser@ucc.org, cherniak@usc.edu, Chris.Leanza@unistudios.com, christy@adelphia.net, Chuckfries@aol.com, ckennard@msn.com, clast13@attbi.com, cleanza@mediaaccess.org, convergentmedia@msn.com, CPaul@scpr.org, cray@usc.edu, crhoden@wga.org, CrzyNat@aol.com, cswartz@etcenter.org, cwomack@kjlhradio.com, dan@namac.org, DANHF@juno.com, daniel@scapegoat.net, danielsdd@aol.com, dave13@attbi.com, daviddiz@aol.com, db@thevine.net, dbravo@aftra.com, demoraji@usc.edu, denise@trb.com, dhonig@crosslink.net, dhunt@soc.ucla.edu, dilarasezgin@yahoo.com, dillardjoyce@yahoo.com, dirk@cwm.com, dkaufman@crystalstairs.org, dklingma@fcc.gov, dkmuir@hotmail.com, dlichtma@midway.uchicago.edu, dmayer@usc.edu, dmcnary@reedbusiness.com, dmihram@usc.edu, drawls3@comcast.net, dsutter01@aol.com, dv@bastioncapital.com, eagress@newscorp.com, ebaker48@earthlink.net, echemerl@law.usc.edu, eddie@naatanet.org, eeb@usc.edu, eingle@parentstv.org, elizabeth.nicolson@mail.house.gov, elizabethserrano@netzero.net, elliot.becker@ewu.ericsson.se, enicholls@homevision.com, eowen@oslaw.com, espiegelman@ffentlaw.com, espinosa@electriciti.com, fabernat@fcc.gov, ffgutier@usc.edu, fogu@usc.edu, fulk@usc.edu, FWells@cslanet.calstatela.edu, gene.Pao@disney.com, geowhite@ucla.edu, ggentile@ap.org, ginamo@attbi.com, globaljustice@attbi.com, gnheys@yahoo.com, golarson@pacbell.net, gstocker@pacbell.net, gtheller@cbs.com, guyaoki@yahoo.com, harveyschick@hotmail.com, hburns@hollywoodreporter.com, heidsiec@usc.edu, hernang@usc.edu, hfeld@mediaaccess.org, hollihan@usc.edu, homeheal@pacbell.net, lazoff@aol.com, info@eurweb.com, inform@rio.com, ingall@usc.edu, irazimmy@aol.com, Commissioner Adelstein, jamesjspencer@yahoo.com, janice.jose@abc.com, jaymackie@seattletimes.com, jayth@duke.edu, jayth@pps.duke.edu, jbert@wga.org, jchester@pop.mail.rcn.net, jchester@pop.rcn.com, jjoyce@nabet16.org, jcontrubis@wgaeast.org, jeff@democraticmedia.org, jeff@emmis.com, jeff@media-alliance.org, jeffp@bsbooks.com, jfeeley@postoffice.pacbell.net, jgirling@studiosystemsinc.com, Jordan Goldstein, jgonale@aftra.com, jgoodman@nab.org, jholtz@usc.edu, jim@povmedia.com, jimwlad@msn.com, jilizaraga@aol.com, jkagan@usc.edu, jmackie@seattletimes.com, jmandel@mediacommail.com, jmclean91104@earthlink.net, jmwatson@usc.edu, jodyk@dga.org, joe.russin@latimes.com, john.drews@sen.ca.gov, johnsonjai2@aol.com, Jonesjo777@aol.com, jonr@creativecommunity.us, jorszag@sbgo.com, jrintels@earthlink.net, jsanchez@wgaeast.org, jsilver@mediareform.net, jt@pipeline.com, jtaplin@intertainer.com, jtharris@usc.edu, jtorres@nahj.org, jtully@entravision.com, judyhsu@usc.edu, julie.xanders@latimes.com, juliomoran@ccnma.org, jwallace@aftra.com, jwlnjpl@aol.com, jyan@usc.edu, Kathleen Abernathy, kaycloud@mindspring.com, keith_weaver@spe.sony.com, kenz@zbbfgs.com, keslade@kjlhradio.com, kevin.ramon@sbcglobal.net, kgarmezy@dga.org, ki.sung@kcrw.org, kibosh@attbi.com, kimmge@consumer.org, KM KJMWEB, kkirsch@nab.org, Katherine Lapin, Kevin Martin, koimo@yahoo.com, kristina.kirk@edelman.com, kunkel@comm.ucsb.edu, kwarden@newscorp.com, latonero@usc.edu, lazetaman@aol.com, lcastane@usc.edu, lcohen@law.usc.edu, lfoley@cwa-unio.org, lfoley@cwa-union.org, lhill@hillfilms.com, linda.lawson10@verizon.net, linda.wolin@mail.house.gov, lmahaney@parentstv.org, Lauren Northrop, lo@emmys.org, lorachen@attbi.com, lpryor@usc.edu, lsimon@aftra.com, lsydell@npr.org, lwolf@usc.edu, maehmail@adelphia.net, mannm@usc.edu, map01@his.com, marc@smsr.com, margcone@aol.com, marielongdc@hotmail.com, mark.a.pedowitz@abc.com, markcooper@aol.com, marks@warnerbros.com, marnie.i.tattersall@abc.com, marthaw@lmi.net, martyk@usc.edu,

materoc1@aol.com, Michael Copps, mdfranks@cbs.com, mdfranks@cbs.com, mduron@usc.edu, melissa.a.wall@csun.edu, melissa.mcdonald@mail.house.gov, melvinfe@usc.edu, members@aivf.org, michael.hiltzik@latimes.com, michel.schneider@edelman.com, michelle.c@adelphia.net, milios@usc.edu, Millskay@aol.com, 2-Earthlink, mitgo2@worldnet.att.net, mliskin@usc.edu, mmangan@wgaeast.org, MOConnell@newscorp.com, mocte@ix.netcom.com, mosull@voanews.com, mparks@usc.edu, Mike Powell, mrgpc@aol.com, mrtturner@usc.edu, mshaffer@vcnet.com, msnow@aftra.com, murrch@consumer.org, mvohare@mindspring.com, ngomez@lafavorita.net, ngrob2@msn.com, nkoch@attbi.com, norris@benton.org, NorthGary@aol.com, nsnow@fullerton.edu, oetzel@usc.edu, orenrosenthal@yahoo.com, paula.madison@nbc.com, paula@1035thebomb.com, Paulect69@aol.com, penley@filmstudies.ucsb.edu, pfair@sag.org, pfannhau@usc.edu, pia_marar@itvs.org, Paul Margie, pmiller@childrennow.org, pokeryoda@earthlink.net, poplowsk@usc.edu, president@aftra.com, prettyboyinhollywood@yahoo.com, priegerl@aol.com, PXYDST007@aol.com, RAARONS@aol.com, radiolazer@hotmail.com, rdowling@hollywoodreporter.com, readdean@thirteen.org, research@pmgadvisory.com, RGilberg@msek.com, rhorwitz@weber.ucsd.edu, ricshaffra@law.usc.edu, rmbrand@robertbrandon.com, rshaffra@law.usc.edu, rulewind@earthlink.net, ruschioni@parentstv.org, rwilkes@hollywoodreporter.com, saberman@newshour.org, sallie.hoffmeister@latimes.com, sallyhampton@attbi.com, sammon@usc.edu, sampak.garg@mail.house.gov, sarah@sanford-pillsbury.com, sbanet@usc.edu, sbyers@usc.edu, scohen@diversetalentgroup.com, SCohen54@aol.com, Susan Eid, sepetys@aol.com, skolhatkar@pkfk.org, smontiel@usc.edu, Stacy Robinson, ss@graphics.org, ssheehan@tribune.com, stanfordk@pacbell.net, steve_mosko@spe.sony.com, steven@freenetproject.org, stharvey@shell.com, stu@peoplescourt.com, sumiharu@earthlink.net, susan.l.fox@abc.com, susanr@sda-inc.com, Sarah Whitesell, taleney@hotmail.com, teague@usc.edu, terronesent@prodigy.net, tlevi@usc.edu, tonifields@email.com, tournour@afm.org, TVjournLA@aol.com, twesten@cgs.org, vai2264@aol.com, vance@producersguild.org, vantageave@aol.com, victorw2@aol.com, vinchar@hotmail.com, voiceovers@earthlink.net, vporter@usc.edu, vriskin@aol.com, vvanpetten@producersguild.org, wampler@usc.edu, wayne@crain.com, wendy@entelechy.net, wgsroll@igc.org, white1@earthlink.net, whrldeas@earthlink.net, wmfive@aol.com, wray@wraycodesign.com, wshitese@fcc.gov, wbk01

Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 10:35 AM

Subject: Media Consolidation consequences

Re: Media Consolidation consequences

According to USA Today, the FCC is probably going to greenlight further media consolidation when it votes on June 2.

At noon today on Channel 28, you can watch a repeat of Barry Diller discussing some of the dire consequences of further deregulation of what he calls our media "oligopoly." Mr. Diller's pretty draconian in his predictions, but he doesn't get as specific as Eric Boehlert's piece in Salon, "Habla usted Clear Channel?" about the stupendous political power play behind the proposed merger of the two biggest Spanish-language media companies in the U.S.

I think the stakes are greater than anybody's publicly discussing. The forces behind the drive to further deregulate monopolistic media ownership are already secretly destroying the free press upon which our democracy depends.

The good news, however, is that we are not powerless to stop this corruption. If we really decide to fight back to protect our free press, there's a powerfully dramatic way to convince the public that something's gone drastically haywire with the media and that corrective measures are necessary. We need to find ways to effectively inform the public about some of the major stories that the press has withheld from the electorate. The American press has gotten itself into a worse cover-up trap than the Catholic Church because of important information that it has withheld in order to get what it wants..

Do you know that during the 2000 campaign the media kept secret from the electorate the fact that George W. Bush was a defendant in a whistleblower lawsuit by the executive director of the Texas Funeral Service Commission that accused him of obstruction of justice, lying under oath, and

influence-peddling? It steadily advanced through the discovery process -- including the taking of depositions that contradicted Bush's sworn affidavit -- throughout the campaign and through the first months of Bush's presidency. In stunning contrast to the hyping of the Paula Jones case, the national press kept everything about the legal developments in the suit against Bush secret. Known as Funeralgate before it was 'disappeared' when Bush became the GOP presidential candidate, the lawsuit was secretly settled by the office of Bush's co-defendant, then Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, before he announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. The defendants insisted on a highly unusual provision that all records from the case never be released to the public. Fortunately, however, many of the legal records are still available.)

Before the 2002 election, after failing to persuade journalists in Texas and the national media to inform the electorate about the case and its secret settlement by candidate Cornyn's office, I wrote a long piece about the details of the lawsuit, the media cover-up, and its implications. Even though some of the links in the article have expired, I urge you to read it. I wrote it both to get the information on the record and to speculate that the major reason that the press withheld a story that would have undermined Bush's promise to 'restore honor and integrity to the presidency' was their understanding that his FCC appointees would further deregulate monopolistic media ownership.

This is not about conspiracy theories. It's probably much more basic than that. As a complete media outsider, I can only guess the reasons for what's been going on. But for whatever purposes, information the public was entitled to have has been withheld.

The last part of my piece gives more examples of how the media is withholding crucial info. I discuss the Sept. 2000 Project for a New American Century report that revealed the Bush team's intention to control the planet, space and cyberspace (a.k.a. the internet), which followed its 1997 letter advocating deposing Saddam Hussein militarily. I tell of a passionate speech by Al Gore warning of the threat to democracy of media consolidation, which was only reported in a student newspaper. And an ignored story on the Bush-connected Carlyle Group investing in an outfit aiming to cash in on FCC deregulation. I explain the false spinning of the media consortium recount of Florida ballots, which buried the fact that when all the legally cast ballots were counted - excluding the thousands of people (mostly Democrats) who accidentally voted for Pat Buchanan on the butterfly ballot or otherwise misvoted or spoiled their ballots - the winner of the Florida election NORC recount was Al Gore.

I sketch some crucial unreported details of the story of how a group of Bush supporters schemed to officially disgrace Bill Clinton. Please read my article's summary of how Richard Porter, the successor to the younger Bush's close friend Lee Atwater as head of Bush I's opposition research team, secretly manipulated the Paula Jones case to its culmination in a disbarment referral. Since Oct. of 2000 I've tried to get the press to inform the public about the relationship between a close friend of the Bushes and the Cheneys, former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Bill Clinton's adversary ever since he narrowly defeated Clinton in his re-election bid in 1974, and Ken Reeves. It was Reeves who took control of the Arkansas legal ethics panel from its executive director, and pushed through a recommendation to disbar the president after a referral to the panel by Susan Webber Wright, the Jones case judge. Hammerschmidt sponsored Wright's appointment to the federal bench by Bush Sr.

The real story of the machinations leading to the impeachment and disbarment effort hasn't been told, but a key play was made by Reeves. Afterward, Reeves was interviewed for a May 24, 2000 story by Don Van Natta, Jr. in the New York Times, in which he "described himself as non-partisan" and claimed to have approached the deliberations on Clinton just as he would have any other lawyer -- giving the impression that he'd had no conflicts of interest. In fact, he was a director of trucking giant American Freightways with Hammerschmidt - the two serving together on the three-man audit and compensation committees.

Provided the information, the New York Times refused to report Reeves' association with Hammerschmidt, letting stand the misleading impression that Reeves was just an ordinary Arkansas lawyer serving on the panel. Nobody else would report it either.